

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 SCI-06 EB-24 NSF-04 AID-20 NAS-01

HEW-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 ARAE-00 /160 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7421

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, EGEN, UY

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: A. STATE 206675

B. MVD 2401 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 177443 (NOTAL)

D. MVD A-145 (NOTAL) OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1974

I. SUMMARY: GOU PREPARATIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD SUBJECT MEETINGS ARE LOW KEY AND INFORMAL IN KEEPING WITH THEIR MODERATE EXPECTATIONS AND A RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL ROLE THEY PLAY IN SUCH MATTERS. AS SUGGESTED REF (C), A VISIT BY WASH REPS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL HERE IN SHARPENING ISSUES AND FOCUSING ATTENTION. THIS COULD BEST BE DONE PRIOR TO SGIV MEETING, AS GOU INTEREST IS HIGHEST IN REGARD TO ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

II. THE EMBASSY CONSULTED WITH DR. JORGE ALVAREZ, FONOFF SPECIAL CONSULTANT AND REPRESENTATIVE ON WG, WHOSE REGULAR POSITION IS DIRGEN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION, AS WELL AS WITH DR. MIGUEL BERTHET,
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SUB-DIRECTOR OF COMM/ECON POLICY DIVISION OF FONOFF,

ARQ. JUAN CAMPIOTTI, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION AND MAJOR HECTOR IBARLUCEA, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY.

III. ALVAREZ IS CLEARLY THE LEADER OF GOU PREPARATIONS FOR WG AND, WITH CAMPIOTTI, ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTER OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN WHATEVER FOLLOW-ON MECHANISM IS DEVELOPED. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, SENIOR WORKING LEVEL PERSONNEL AND NOT ABLE TO COMMIT POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE NOT REALLY FOCUSED ON WG ISSUES. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, SUBJEC IS, AND WILL REMAIN, ONLY A TANGENTIAL INTEREST OF GOU AND COMMITMENT OF REAL RESOURCES IS LIKELY TO BE MODEST, PARTICULARLY IN CURRENT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC STRINGENCY.

IV. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL (A):

1) ANY COORDINATION OF GOU POSITION IN VARIOUS SUBGROUPS TAKES PLACE THROUGH ALVAREZ, WHO IS THE ONLY ONE HERE FAMILIAR WITH THE STRUCTURE OF THIS PROJECT.

2) FONOFF OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS ALVAREZ AND CAMPIOTTI ARE AWARE OF THE DANGERS THAT THE OUTCOME COULD BE EITHER A STERILE DISCUSSION GROUP PITTING THE LAS AGAINST THE US OR BE ANOTHER MULTILATERAL BUREAUCRACY ACCOMPLISHING LITTLE. THEY DO NOT SEE A LEADING ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN DETERMINING THE OUTCOME, BUT ARE WILLING TO BE HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING A POSITIVE ONE.

3) GOU'S PRIORITY INTEREST IS TO FACILITATE BOTH THE TRANSFER AND ADAPTION OF TECHNOLOGY TO URUGUAY'S NEEDS. THEY -- ALVAREZ, CAMPIOTTI AND IBARLUCEA -- ARE CONCERNED THAT THE GUIDELINES ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN INHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF PRIVATE TECHNOLOGY. THEY SEE AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR URUGUAY TO ORGANIZE A TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ALONG THE LINES OF ARGENTINA'S INTI, PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES BUT ALSO TO RELATE TO ANY INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THE WG. SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS, AND EARLY ACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS UNLIKELY.

4) THE EMBASSY CAN SPECULATE THAT ALVAREZ WOULD GET THE JOB, BUT THE GOU HAS NOT GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO THIS.

5) SIMILARLY, THE GOU HAS NOT FACED THIS QUESTION YET, BUT ANY COMMITMENT LIKELY TO BE SMALL. SEE PARA III ABOVE.

6) WE ARE TOLD SOME CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES HAVE BEEN HELD, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY INFORMAL AND NON-SPECIFIC.

7) GOU POSITION ON FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATION MORE FULLY DISCUSSED IN REF (D). THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SMALL, SEMI-INDEPENDENT ACTION ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD SERVE AS INFORMATION AND CONTACTING POINT, PERHAPS LATER DEVELOPING CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT OR CONTRACT FOR S/T PROJECTS SPECIFICALLY NEEDED AND REQUESTED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES.

8) THEY WANT A TECHNICAL LEVEL ORGANIZATION, AND HOPE TO AVOID THEREBY EXTENSIVE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE SOME POLITICAL QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. SEE REF (D).

9) ALTHOUGH ALVAREZ EXPECTS THAT A FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATION WILL COME UNDER THE OAS UMBRELLA, HE WOULD LIKE IT TO BE FAIRLY INDEPENDENT IN THE HOPE THIS WOULD AVOID POLITICAL WRANGLES.

V. AS REQUESTED IN STATE 177423, ECON SECTION CHIEF STEPHEN WATKINS DESIGNATED TO FOLLOW WORK OF WGSTT.
HAAHR

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